

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 698

S E C R E T CAIRO 9978

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJ: STUDENT AND WORKERS UNREST OVER GOE

POLICIES

REF: CAIRO 9675

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ASHRAF MARWAN TODAY, AMBASSADOR ALLUDED TO PRESIDENT'S REMARKS OF A FEW DAYS AGO ABOUT TROUBLE THAT "COMMUNIST" ACTIVITIES AMONG STUDENTS AND LABORERS IN PARTICULAR ARE CURRENTLY CAUSING. AMBASSADOR ASKED IF MARWAN COULD ELABORATE. MARWAN ECHOED THE CHARGE THA "COMMUNISTS" ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE AMONG STUDENTS AND LABORERS. THEY ARE ALLEDGEDLY HAMMERING ON SEVERAL THEMES: TOWARD THE USG. ON THE CONTRARY, BY ALIENATING USSR, IT HAS LOST ADVANTAGES WHICH IT HAD EARLIER ENJOYED. SINCE JANUARY DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI. ON CONTRARY, SITUATION HAS BECOME FROZEN. NOR HAS USG PROVIDED ANY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. USG CONTINUES BE TOTALLY PARTISAN TO ISRAEL AND AGAINT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. RECENT RETRACTION OF SEEMINGLY PRO-PALESTINIAN STATEMENTS BY AMERICAN LEADERS ATTESTS TO CONTINUED BIAS USG POLICY. PRESIDENT FORD'S PUBLIC CENSURE OF GENERAL BROWN FOR LATTER'S REMARKS ARE ALLEGEDLY CITED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THIS. MOREOVER, AS RESULT OF SADAT'S POLICY SHIFT, NO NEW MILITARY OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY SOVIETS. EGYPTIAN MILITARY HAS BEEN BADLY WEAKENED, WHILE ISRAELI MILITARY CONTINUES TO BE

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MASSIVELY STRENGTHENED BY US. ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL CAN ONLY

BE ACHIEVED BY FULL COOPERATION WITH SOVIETS AND THROUGH MEDIUM OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. SECOND, BASIC COMMODITY SHORTAGES AND INFLATION ARE BEING SEIZED UPON THE PRESIDENT AND HEGAZY CABINET ARE BEING CRITICIZED FOR FAILURE TO CONTROL INFLATION. UNDERLYING THEME OF LEFTIST CHARGES, ACCORDING TO MARWAN, IS THAT USG COULD, IF IT WISHED, PROVIDE BASIC ESSENTIALS TO PREVENT SUCH COMMODITY SHORTAGES AND INFLATION, BUT IS DELIVERATELY NOT DOING SO. NIXON'S "PROMISES" WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE HONORED. IN ADDITION, STUDENTS ARE CRITICIZING CURRENT SHORTAGES OF TEXT-BOOKS, TEXTS, NOTEBOOKS AND STUDENT ACCESSORIES.

4. THIRD, STUDENTS AND WORKERS ARE CHARGING WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT. THE RICH ARE GETTING RICHER AND THE POOR, POORER. THIS CRITICISM HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION, MARWAN OBSERVED. THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED FOR EVIDENCE. HE HAD REFUSED TO ACT ON THE BASIS FO RUMORS. MARWAN CONCEDED CORRUPTION IS TAKING PLACE, BUT CLAIMED NO HARD EVIDENCE HASTHUS FAR BEEN ADDUCED TO INCRIMINATE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. A NUMBER OF FOREIGN COMPANIES, INCLUDING AMERICAN, HAD BEEN ASKED ABOUT KICKBACK DEMANDS, BUT ALL HAD REFUSED TO REPLY EVEN HOUGH THIS MIGHT MEAN LOSS OF CONTRACT.

5. FOURT, STUDENTS AND LARBORERS ARE CRITICISING RECENT SUGGESTION THAT ASU NO LONGER BE SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY AND THAT DUAL OR MULTI PARTY SYSTEM BE ESTABLISHED. THIS IDEA HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY THE AMIN BROTHERS. STUDENTS AND LABORERS ARE ALLEGEDLY CHARGING THAT AMINS ARE IN USG PAY AND THAT THAT THERE RECOMMENDATIONS IS BEING MADE AT BEHEST OF US GOVT. A "WESTERN AMBASSADOR"-- NOT US AMBASSADOR--IS REPORTEDLY BEING QUOTED AS HAVING PUBLICLY SUPPORTED MULTIPLE PARTY SYSTEM IN PLACE ASU.

6. MARWAN INDICAED GOE IS WATCHING " COMMUNIST" ACTIVITIS AMONG STUDENTS AND LABORERS AND WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN DUE COURSE.

7. COMMENT: ABOVE IS MARWAN'S VERSION OF CAUSES
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OF CURRENT LEFTIST-INSPIRED STUDENT AND LABORERS' UNREST. WHILE IT IS CLEARLY TAILORED FOR OUR EARS, OTHER REPORTS WE HAVE SUGGEST THE SEVERAL THEMES CITED BY HIM ARE CORRECT, AT LEAST IN THRUST IF NOT ALWAYS IN DETAIL. WITH BREZHNEV COMING IN MID-JANUARY, LEFTISTS ARE CLEARLY ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THEY CAN ACT WITH IMPUNITY AND USG IS PREDICTABLE WHIPPING BOY. MARWAN MADE HIS COMMENT ABOUT CHARGES OF CORRUPTION WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH, ALTHOUGH HE IS SURELY AWARE THAT HE,

PERSONALLY, IS BEING WIDELY CHARGED AMONG EGYPTIAN PUBLIC WITH
BEING ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL CULPRITS.
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